

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 5, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. No new matter has been added. Claim 31 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 1-26, 28, 29, and 32-40 are currently pending in the application.

The Office Action indicated that claims 28, 29, and 32-40 have been allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims. However, claims 1-26 are respectfully submitted for consideration in view of the remarks set forth below.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Although not explicitly stated in the rejection, it appears that claim 31 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 31 has been canceled and, therefore, the rejection with respect to that claim is rendered moot.

With respect to claims 1-26, as mentioned above, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 16, 18, and 19 to address the specific issues outlined in the Office Action on pages 2-4. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second

paragraph. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 16, 18, and 19 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 5-10, 12-15, 17, and 20-26 are dependent upon claims 1, 3, 11, 16, and 18, respectively. Consequently, claims 2, 5-10, 12-15, 17, and 20-26 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claims 1, 3, 11, 16, and 18, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments and remarks have addressed all of the issues contained in the present Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 1-26, 28, 29, and 32-40 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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